Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of April 7, 2003 to April 11, 2003

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Building Permits ($ Millions)	February			In February, Alberta building permits were up 5.5% from the same period last year. On a monthly basis, permits were 8.6% below the level recorded in January, with both residential (-7.6%) and non-residential (-10.3%) permits experiencing monthly declines. For the year to date, however, Alberta permits are running 9.7% ahead of the pace set through the first two months of 2002. Canadian building permits declined by 9.8% in February, but stood 7.4% above their level of February 2002.
Alberta	579.6	-8.6%	5.5%	
Canada	3895.2	-9.8%	7.4%	
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	February			New house prices in Canada rose by 0.6% in February. Monthly increases were reported in 14 of the 21 urban regions surveyed, with the largest increases occurring in Quebec (+1.5%), Montreal (+1.2%) and Regina (+1.0%). Five regions reported no change in prices, while monthly decreases were reported in St Catharines-Niagara (-0.3%) and Saint John-Moncton-Fredericton (-0.1%). On an annual basis, new house prices were up by 5.1% across Canada. The largest yearly increases were reported in Montreal (+10.1%), Quebec (+9.5%) and Edmonton (+8.3%).
Canada	113.8	0.6%	5.1%	
Edmonton	127.7	0.6%	8.3%	
Calgary	147.1	0.4%	5.8%	
Canadian International Merchandise Trade ($ millions)	February			Canada's overall trade surplus fell by $556 million in February, to $4.6 billion. Exports declined by 1.6% from the previous month, while imports were virtually unchanged. The largest surpluses occurred in energy ($4.1 billion) and forestry products ($2.6 billion). On an annual basis, total exports were up by 2.0% while imports increased by 2.8%.
Exports	34,582	-1.6%	2.0%	
Imports	29,956	0.0%	2.8%	